

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Cancel)
2. (Cancel)
3. (Cancel)
4. (Cancel)
5. (Cancel)
6. (Cancel)
7. (Cancel)
8. (Cancel)
9. (Cancel)
10. (Cancel)
11. (Cancel)
12. (Cancel)
13. (Cancel)
14. (Cancel)
15. (Cancel)
16. (Cancel)
17. (Cancel)
18. (Cancel)
19. (Cancel)
20. (Cancel)
21. (Cancel)
22. (Cancel)
23. (Cancel)
24. (Cancel)
25. (Cancel)
26. (Cancel)
27. (Cancel)
28. (Cancel)

29. (Cancel)
30. (Currently Amended) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising memory storing instructions for:

receiving broadcasted content from a service provider via a first input;

sending the broadcasted content to the television via a first output;

receiving message information from a user via a second input;

conducting two-way communications with other devices communicating via a back channel communications path at that is connected between a second output of the set top box and an input of a second set top box, the back channel communications path using an in-home wiring system that is different from the first input, the second output sending the message information to the second set top box, thus establishing a two-way intercom system with the second set top box;

retrieving a visual representation from the memory that corresponds to a sender of a communication;

processing a callout bubble that places text of the communication within the callout bubble; and

processing for display the visual representation of the sender and the callout bubble comprising the text of the sender's communication,

reducing a displayed image to a first quadrant of a display of the television, such that second, third, and fourth quadrants are blank;

displaying a first message in two horizontal, adjacent blank quadrants; and

displaying a second message in a remaining blank quadrant;

updating the message information using private data received from the external line connection to the external signal source; and

when a message is created, first storing the message in memory for a time prior to being sent, then retrieving the message from the memory and sending the message to a recipient's set top box,

wherein the broadcasted content is processed for an audio channel and, when the communication message information has audible content, the communication message information is processed for another audio channel and a volume of the broadcasted content is reduced below a volume of the communication message information being played.

31. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores instructions for receiving signals from a keyboard input.
32. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving broadcasted content from a service provider via a first input;  
processing the broadcasted content by a processor for display via a first output;  
receiving message information from a user via a second input;  
conducting two-way communications with other devices via a back channel communications path at an input-output port;  
receiving a communication at the input-output port;  
retrieving a visual representation from memory that corresponds to a sender of the communication;  
retrieving a callout bubble from the memory when the communication comprises text;  
placing the text within the callout bubble; and  
processing for display the visual representation of the sender and the callout bubble comprising the text of the sender's communication.